



TranZDVC Bulletin

The newsletter for the Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (TranZDVC) project

MAY 2020



FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

It is my pleasure to present to you our readers TranZDVC's May 2020 Bulletin. TranZDVC remains committed to its area of work, transforming Zimbabwe's dairy value chain by driving the sub-sector to the benefit of the country's economic development. This issue has as its major highlight TranZDVC importing 200 in-calf heifers from South Africa. This is anticipated to revitalise the dairy value chain. The project is working with large-scale milk processors to implement a heifer matching facility where it is buying 500 in-calf heifers that will be distributed to farmers on a one-to-one match.

It is gratifying to note that working with our partners, we continued to achieve key project milestones despite the difficult circumstances of working under the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the project's matching grants and heifer facilities, we are on track to boost Zimbabwe's milk production. The availability of inputs, matching grants facilities, animal breeding technologies, together with greater use of proper technically supported dairy farming, is expected to create a situation in which more and more small-scale dairy farmers have access to resources, information and significantly improve their products.

The aim is to empower rural communities through moving towards farmer-driven initiatives. This will see smallholder dairy farmers driving their own economic development initiatives. It will also help unlock the potential of the country's economy.

In this issue, we share with you, the journey so far, of the 105 in-calf heifers imported from South Africa in April 2020, which have been distributed to smallholder farmers. We also cover project updates focusing on the various on-going initiatives through partnerships aimed at transforming the country's dairy sector. More critically, we share how TranZDVC has been raising COVID-19 awareness among dairy farmers to ensure they keep working while following health guidelines to keep milk supply flowing.

We also focus on fodder production activities, highlighting progress made to date in working with lead farmers across the countries who have adopted the production of various fodder crops to supplement their dairy herds. . As always, we welcome your feedback on this, and all other issues of the newsletter.

Dr Edson Chifamba, TranZDVC Project Coordinator

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TRANZDVC DISTRIBUTES HEIFERS TO SMALL- SCALE DAIRY FARMERS TO BOOST MILK PRODUCTION

The Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain (TranZDVC) for the Future project, has handed over 105 in-calf heifers imported from South Africa, to boost the country's dairy sub-sector.

Twenty-two small-scale farmers in May benefited from this consignment and their milk processors - Pro Dairy, Nestle Zimbabwe and Dendairy will match on a one - to -one basis what TranZDVC procured. The heifers, a cross breed between Jerseys and Jersey Friesian crosses, are expected to improve the quantity and quality of the national dairy herd.

Guest of Honour at the handover ceremony of the first batch of 105 heifers that arrived in Zimbabwe in April 2020 held at Bhara Bhara Farm in Marirangwe area in Mashonaland East province, Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, and Rural Resettlement, Vangelis Haritatos told the beneficiary farmers to take farming- as- a- family business, and improve the production and productivity of Zimbabwe's dairy value chain.

"I urge all beneficiary farmers of these in-calf heifers distributed here today to maximise the opportunity presented to them by the TranZDVC project and the government of Zimbabwe, to scale- up their milk production efforts," said deputy minister Haritatos. The project is investing in interventions that will contribute directly to continued development of Zimbabwe's dairy sub-sector.



Honourable Vangelis Haritatos delivering the keynote address at the handover ceremony.

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Addressing participants at the same event, Goran Forssen, the We Effect Country Representative said: "The project is about increasing the production of milk in Zimbabwe from 75 million litres (in 2018) to 120 million litres (by 2022) per year and increasing the participation by small-scale farmers, especially women and youth, in the dairy value chain".

To achieve this, the project is targeting 4,000 small-scale dairy farmers that are currently unable to participate in organised marketing of milk. Zimbabwe's dairy herd of 123,000 cows in 1990, at one point, produced more than 260 million litres of milk annually, but production declined over the years, with an estimated 39,000 dairy cows left. The annual demand for milk currently stands at 120 million litres and there is a deficit of 45 million litres.

Mudiwa Mupfanochiya, one of the farmers who received 10 heifers is involved in dairy production at Ponderossa Farm in Umzingwane district in Matabeleland South province, is already looking forward to increased milk production.

"I applied for five heifers through this facility and received an additional five heifers from the project through Den dairy. This is a major step in improving milk production at Panderossa Farm. I currently have 30 milking cows and producing 150 to 200 litres of milk per day using a low input and low output system" said Mudiwa.

Mudiwa is seeking to boost milk production from the current 10 litres per cow per day to 15 litres per cow per day.

Speaking earlier in May during another heifer hand-over ceremony at Dendairy Farm in Kwekwe, in Midlands province y, TranZDVC project coordinator, Dr Edson Chifamba said: "We also have a heifer facility where we are buying 500 in-calf heifers that we'll distribute to farmers on a one-to-one match. Buy one and get one. This will result in a herd increase of 1,000 dairy cows. So far, we have imported 200 heifers that we are going to distribute through our large-scale processors which are Dendairy, Dairibord Zimbabwe, Kefalos, Prodairy and Nestle Zimbabwe."

A second consignment of 95 in-calf heifers will be imported from the same suppliers of the first batch, Cape Eastern Livestock South Africa. These will be handed over to Dairibord and Kefalos for distribution to another 26 small-scale dairy farmers.



(Left) Part of the herd of in-calf heifers at Bhara Bhara Farm in Marirangwe area in Mashonaland East province. (Right) Some of the small-scale dairy producers who benefitted from the heifer matching facility.

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PROJECT UPDATES

DOING BUSINESS IN TRYING TIMES: TRANZDVC BENEFICIARIES RESPOND POSITIVELY TO CALLS FOR COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS



COVID-19 safety precautions in place at Celestial Delight Farm Mutume to curb the continued spread of the disease..

Following the outbreak of COVID -19 pandemic, TranZDVC has been raising awareness among its beneficiary dairy farmers on measures to curb the continued spread of COVID-19. These include frequent hand washing with soap, maintaining social distancing, avoiding body contact and unnecessary movement.

Messages were disseminated through phone calls, short message service (SMS), and via WhatsApp, Lead farmers and village health workers assisted in disseminating the messages and farmers responded positively to this call.

Face masks are mostly worn when one is going out and not necessarily in the home. In all sites, farmers have suspended working in groups but relying on family labour to avoid contact with outsiders and maintaining social distancing. One person from a household is sent out for shopping or marketing activities when the need arises.

These precautions have helped the farmers to stay safe since the COVID-19 outbreak. TranZDVC continues to disseminate key messages that help the farmers to remain safe, and stay at home most of the times. Milking hygiene and fodder production technologies training was held at Celestial Delight Mutume Farm. in Makonde district in Mashonaland West province.

Four milkers, dairy manager and a dairy supervisor (5 females and 1 female) were trained on milk handling and how to prevent transmission of the coronavirus from humans to milk, during the milking. At least 229 farmers including farm workers, received awareness and trainings on milk handling, with special emphasis on preventative measures of COVID-19. Raising awareness on the pandemic was key during all farmer engagements.

At Hamauromba Milk Collection Centre (MCC) in Masvingo district, TranZDVC trained 18 MCCs to operate under the lockdown conditions. The centres are Tsonzo, Rusitu Mayfield, United, Sangano, Honde Valley, Cynara, Marirangwe, Nharira, Sadza, Chikwaka, Watershed, Chitomborwizi, Gokwe, Shurugwi, Ndoda Milk Hub, Mushagashe, Umzingwane and Claring.

The Ndoda Milk Hub was provided with a letter to enable milk delivery to the processor from Chirumhanzu to Gweru. MCCs were also capacitated with letters to ensure movement during the lockdown and other MCCs such as Sadza that were in-need of culture and packaging were assisted to have these delivered at their centres.

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FODDER PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES KEY TO DAIRY FARMING

The Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF), a TranZDVC partner, is working with 120 lead farmers country-wide. A total of 48 of these farmers received velvet bean and sun hemp material towards production of home-grown feeds. Most of them were excited about how the crops performed during the 2019/ 2020 season. This year, most of them are practicing seed multiplication to enable them have seed to plant on larger areas in the 2020/ 21 season.

Fifty-eight-year old Douglas Masilela, of Ward 20 in Umzingwane district in Matabeleland South province, is an enterprising dairy farmer who has witnessed his agribusiness grow. Masilela, from Irisvale Village IB, started dairy farming in 2018 with two beef cows milking five litres of milk per day. Working with TranZDVC project from last year, Masilela received training on dairy management and fodder production. Today, he is milking 22 litres of milk per day. He has bought three heifer dairy crosses as he moves up the dairy farming ladder.

Elphas Maposa of Sables Farm, Ward 15, in Somabhula area of Gweru district in the Midlands province has a one- hectare plot of sorghum established to be used for on- farm feed formulations for his cattle. The on- farm feed formulations will be monitored by a ZADF field officer as this is answering to a reduction in cost of production by the farmer. The farmer was advised to plant sorghum for silage next season as well as multiplying the seed and sell to other farmers in Somabhula.

One of TranZDVC aims is to move towards farmer-driven initiatives. This will see dairy small-scale farmers driving their own economic development initiatives through forging strong links with the private sector while at the same time increasing the quality of their milk. This is TranZDVC's long-term strategy, in cooperation with commercial partners as a key component of more efficient production and marketing systems.



Masilela in his fodder production plot.

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